

UNCLASSIFIED

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Document Number: 1978BUENOS01251

Page: 1

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PAGE 01 BUENOS 01251 172105Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
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USIE-00 INRE-00 HA-05 TRSE-00 /057 W
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O 172028Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4597

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

(☒) Release (☐) Excise (☐) Deny

Exemption(s):

Declassify: (☐) In Part (☒) In Full

(☐) Classify as (☐) Extend as (☐) Downgrade to

Page OTHER Declassify on Reason

[REDACTED] BUENOS AIRES 1251

E.O. 11652 GDS
TAGS SHUM, PINT, AR
SUBJECT POSSIBLE FAVORABLE DECISIONS ON DEUTSCH AND
HUMAN RIGHTS CASES

REF: BUENOS AIRES 9282

1. FROM A VARIETY OF SOURCES WE HAVE RECEIVED A NUMBER OF SIGNALS THAT FAVORABLE JUNTA ACTION MAY BE IMMINENT IN THE CASE OF ALEJANDRO DEUTSCH AND OTHERS OF HIGH US INTEREST. AS WE REPORTED IN REFTTEL, MINISTER OF INTERIOR HARGUINDEGUY TOLD THE AMBASSADOR FEBRUARY 16 THAT THE JUNTA WOULD BE CONSIDERING THE DEUTSCH, VOGLER AND TIMERMAN CASES "SOON". ON THAT OCCASION, THE MINISTER STATED THE OPINION THAT DEUTSCH AND VOGLER HAD DONE NOTHING MORE THAN ACT AS ANY NORMAL PARENT WOULD HAVE DONE IN ATTEMPTING TO PROTECT THEIR KIN. (TIMERMAN WAS AN ENTIRELY DIFFERENT MATTER, HOWEVER.)
2. UNOFFICIAL SOURCES CLOSE TO THE NAVY IN THE PAST DAY OR TWO HAVE COINCIDED IN THE VIEW THAT DEUTSCH PARTICULARLY WAS ABOUT TO BENEFIT FROM A FAVORABLE DECISION. TODAY (FEBRUARY 17), ADMIRAL MASSERA SENT A POLITICAL AIDE, CAPT MONTEMAYOR, TO INFORM THE AMBASSADOR THAT DEUTSCHS

PAGE 02 BUENOS 01251 172105Z

RELEASE WOULD BE EFFECTED SHORTLY. THE AIDE MADE NO MENTION OF DEUTSCHS DAUGHTER LILIANA AND WE HAVE NO REASON TO ASSUME

Current Class: [REDACTED]

Page: 1

UNCLASSIFIED

Current Class: [REDACTED]
Current Handling: n/a
Document Number: 1978BUENOS01251

Page: 2
Channel: n/a

THAT SHE MAY BE INCLUDED IN THE REPORTEDLY IMMINENT ACTION.

3. CAPT MONTEMAYOR STRESSED THAT ADMIRAL MASSERA WAS WORKING HARD TO RESOLVE THE HUMAN RIGHTS CASES OF HIGH INTEREST TO THE US. HE EMPHASIZED THAT THE NAVY WAS AT THE AMBASSADORS COMPLETE DISPOSAL IN THIS REGARD AND IMPLIED, AS MASSERA HIMSELF HAS BEEN WONT TO DO ON PREVIOUS OCCASIONS, THAT THE ARMY WAS THE PRIMARY SOURCE OF OBFUSCATING THE PROBLEM. COMING TO THE BOTTOM LINE OF HIS PROPOSITION, HE THEN ASKED WHY THE NAVY SEEMED TO BE SINGLED OUT FOR DENIALS OF US MILITARY EQUIPMENT WHEN IT WAS THENAVY THAT WAS DOING THE MOST TO IMPROVE THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION. THE AMBASSADOR RESPONDED THAT THERE WAS NO POLICY OF SINGLING OUT ANY SERVICE NOR DID US DICISION MAKERS HOLD ANYTHING PERSONAL AGAINST MASSERA. THE AMBASSADOR EMPHASIZED THAT TIME WAS RUNNING OUT IN WASHINGTON IN TERMS OF THE POLICY DICISION THAT HAD TO BE MADE WITH RESPECT TO ARGENTINA AND THAT IF THERE WAS ANYTHING THAT MASSERA COULD DO TO RESCUE THESE PEOPLE, THIS WOULD BE GREATLY WELCOMED-- AND APPRECIATED-- BY THE USG.

4. IT IS EVIDENT THAT MASSERA IS TRYING TO TAKE CREDIT FOR WHAT APPEARS TO BE IMPENDING JUNTA ACTION IN SOME OF THE HIGH INTEREST CASES. FOR WHATEVER HIS MOTIVES, WE BELIEVE THAT MASSERA HAS BEEN PLAYING A ROLE OF PUSHING A FAVORABLE DECISION THROUGH THE JUNTA AND WE PROPOSE TO CONTINUE ENCOURAGING HIM TO DO SO.
CASTRO

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Current Class: [REDACTED]

Page: 2

UNRECORDED